Mr. T. V. Subramania Ayyar: In the answer, it is said that the 'complaint is highly exaggerated'. That is only a vague answer.

Mr. President: The position has been sufficiently explained by hon'ble members for Government. This sort of cross-examination regarding the language I cannot allow.

LEVEL OF RAILWAY COMPARTMENTS—INCONVENIENCES FELT BY THE PUBLIC.

53. Mr. A. V. Moothedan: Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the great inconvenience felt by the public, because the level of the Railway compartments is much higher than the level of the Railway platforms?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: There had been some inconvenience on this account. But this has been remedied by providing a third step and an additional hand rail to the carriages running on this railway.

RAILWAY BUDGET—PREPARATION OF.

54. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar: Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Cochin Government have any hand in the preparation of the Railway Budget; will the Government be pleased to place on the table of the House a copy of the last Railway Budget so far as it relates to our State Railway?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: No. No separate budget is prepared for the State Railway.

SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY COMPANY—CAPITAL EXPENDITURE—INCURRING OF.

55. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar: Will the Government be pleased to state whether the South Indian Railway Company is authorised to incur capital expenditure in the State Railway without the permission of our Government?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: No.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu: Is the Railway Budget scrutinised by our Government?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: No.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu: Can't the Government take steps to scrutinise the railway budget as prepared by the S. I. R., so far as our railway is concerned?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: There is no separate budget as far as our portion is concerned.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. P. Govinda Menon: May I know whether the Diwan's position in the Railway Board is by virtue of his Office?

Mr. President: Ex-officio.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu: Will the Government be pleased to consider this question and prepare a separate budget at least in future for our railway?

Mr. President: I do not think under the agreement we are entitled to ask that.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon: Is our Diwan consulted before the railway budget is prepared?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: No.

Mr. M. K. Devassy: Has the Government any objection to demand that to the Railway Management?

Mr. President: We are bound by the agreement.

Mr. M. K. Devassy: Does the agreement thoroughly bar us even in making that demand?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: They incur the expenditure and we pay. But whenever any capital expenditure has to be incurred, we scrutinise such expenditure.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon: May I know the services rendered by the Diwan in his position on the Railway Advisory Committee.

Mr. President: The Railway Advisory Board has nothing to do with the railway accounts. It is a non-official body in which representation is given to various bodies such as Chambers of Commerce, and the Cochin Government have also a place in that body in virtue of the Shoranur-Ernakulam Railway in order to enable them to make any representation to the railway administration on behalf of this Government. These representations are made only in connection with the conveniences to passengers.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon: How do Railway Authorities determine our share of revenue?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar: I ask the hon'ble member to refer to the agreement itself. A copy of the agreement has been placed on the Table.

ACCOUNTS—STATE RAILWAY—AUDIT OF.

56. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar: Will the Government be pleased to state whether the State Railway accounts are audited by any of our Government Officers and if so, have at any time any discrepancies been pointed out in the Railway accounts by such officers?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly